of wood substitution to avoid relentless pressure on forests and to minimise and conserve the forests to preserve the environment and ecological balance;

(c) whether it is a fact that Department of Education, Delhi Administration has placed an order for 30,000 dual desks made of wood|teakwood in violation of Government instructions; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to bring Delhi Administration in line with Government policy ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) (a) The Central Government have issued instructions to restrict purchase of wooden furniture in Government offices, autonomous organisations and public sector undertakings.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Education Department, Delhi Administration have placed an order for 24,000 dual desks made of steel pipe frame with teak wood top on the basis of tenders approved in 1987-88.

(d) Instructions have been reiterated for compliance by Delhi Administration while procuring furniture for Government offices and schools in future.

Rise in cess on Domestic Steel and Pig Iron

3853. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to raise the cess on domestic steel and pig iron mobilise resources to finance the International Price Reimbursement Scheme (IPES) and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating its likely impact on the domestic prices of steel and pig iron and on the user industries in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b) Various alternatives for the augmentation of the funds of the International Price Reimbursement Scheme are under consideration.

Import of Concentrate Components

3854. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the current REP licences norms are likely to be revised in the case of soft drink|fruit juice concentrates to accommodate new projects;

(b) whether Government are aware that the Pepsi proposal envisages higher import content in the contentrate than Coca Cola required; and

(c) whether import of concentrate components is likely to be permitted in excess of current norms acceptable to local industry ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) There is no such proposal under consideration. However, the Import Policy is kept constantly under review, and amendments thereto are considered, as and when deemed necessary.

(b) and (c) The proposal submitted by Punjab Agro is still under consideration. It is premature to say anything in this regard.